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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-17, 20 and 21 are pending. Claims 1, 3-17, 20 and 21 stand rejected.

Applicants note that claim 1 was amended on March 5, 2001. Inadvertently, at line 6 of claim 1, the phrase "~~for~~ of decoding received various information, picture synthesizing means" was deleted. Claim 1, as now amended, correctly includes this phrase.

Section 102 Rejections

Claim 1 has been rejected as being anticipated by Lane. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome for the reasons set forth below.

Amended claim 1 now includes features which are not anticipated or suggested by the cited reference, namely:

wherein each picture includes a priority used to determine whether there is a picture which should be processed, or not be processed, according to a load processed by a reception side terminal or processing capacity of a reception side terminal.

Basis for these features may be found in the specification, for example, at page 11, line 18 to page 12, line 7, and Fig. 1. As stated, "a priority decision unit 14 determines the priority of decoding...the information obtained from the separation unit 12 (for example, picture, sound, control information) when the terminal is overloaded...[I]n the method of determining the priority of processing, it may be preliminarily decided in the reception terminal device, or the information about the priority determined in...the transmission side terminal."

As also stated, for example, at page 12, line 25 to page 13, line 9, "according to the priority of various receiving information at the time of overloading, the picture frame or sound of the priority to be processed may be determined by the priority decision means for determining the method of processing.... The unit for providing the priority may be each unit of picture or sound..."

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Thus, the invention, as recited in amended claim 1, provides that each picture has a priority and a determination is made whether the picture is to be processed, or not, according to the load or the processing capacity of the reception side terminal.

It is because the applicants have included the features of amended claim 1 that the applicants are able to decode pictures without causing a breakdown, even when the load processed or the processing capacity of the reception side terminal is changed. Even if the terminal is overloaded, a determination is made using the priority of each picture whether to process or not process the picture according to the load or processing capacity of the reception side terminal.

Lane, on the other hand, discloses that useful data, which can be recognized in a trick play mode, be written on a trick play segment of a VTR. The capacity of the data area on the trick play segment is restricted. Therefore, Lane discloses that useful data be previously assigned a high priority at the transmitter side. Prioritizer 104 of Lane (Fig. 8a) implements a prioritization scheme that is based on the usefulness of the data for trick play operation (col. 21, lines 46-50).

The data is recorded in the trick play segments on a space available basis, with highest priority data being stored before lower priority data (col. 23, lines 30-32). Lane also discloses that the VTR writes all the data, starting from the highest priority level, and next moving to a lower priority level, until running out of space on the tape (col. 27, lines 8-12).

Accordingly, Lane discloses that all data be recorded based on priority until the VTR runs out of space on the tape. Although the data may be of high priority, it may be possible for the data not to be recorded, because the VTR may run out of space on the tape. Lane does not suggest determining whether a picture should be processed, or not be processed, according to the load or processing capacity of the reception side terminal. Instead, Lane stops processing a picture, when the tape runs out of space.

Furthermore, the purpose of using priority by Lane is completely different from the purpose of using priority in applicants' invention. Lane uses priority to select the processing sequence of the VTR. Having selected the processing sequence, the pictures are all recorded until the tape runs out of space. Applicants'

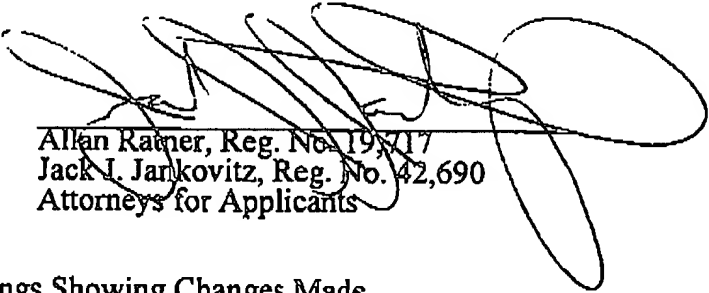
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invention, as recited in amended claim 1, on the other hand, uses priority to determine whether a picture is processed, or not processed, according to the load or processing capacity of the reception terminal. Applicants do not wait to run out of memory space.

Thus, Applicants' invention, as recited in amended claim 1, is completely different from the disclosure of Lane. Although not the same, claim 16, 20 and 21 have also been amended to recite features similar to amended claim 1. Reconsideration of these claims, as well as their dependent claims, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Enclosure: Version With Markings Showing Changes Made  
Extension of Time

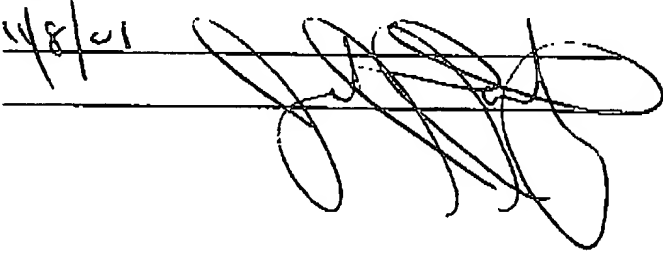
Dated: November 8, 2001

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADECLAIMS:

1 1. (As originally filed together with amendments filed on March 5, 2001  
2 and as amended now) A picture decoding and coding apparatus comprising a  
3 picture coding apparatus including picture coding means of coding picture  
4 information, and transmission control means of transmitting or recording the  
5 coded various information, and a picture decoding apparatus including reception  
6 control means of receiving the coded various information, picture decoding means  
7 ~~for~~of decoding received various information, picture synthesizing means of  
8 synthesizing one or more decoded pictures, and output means of delivering the  
9 synthesized picture,

10 wherein each picture includes a priority used to determine whether there is  
11 a picture which should be processed, or not be processed, according to a load  
12 processed by a reception side terminal or processing capacity of a reception side  
13 terminal.

1 16. (As Amended) A real time picture coding apparatus comprising one or  
2 more picture input means ~~for~~of feeding pictures, picture input control means of  
3 controlling the control state of the picture input means, other terminal control  
4 request control means of controlling the reception state of a reception side  
5 terminal, coding process decision means of determining the coding method of  
6 pictures depending on at least the controlled reception state of the reception side  
7 terminal or the control state of said picture input means, picture coding means ~~for~~  
8 of coding said input picture according to the result of decision by the coding  
9 process decision means, and output means of delivering the coded picture,

10 wherein each picture includes a priority used to determine whether there is  
11 a picture which should be processed, or not be processed, according to a load  
12 processed by a reception side terminal or processing capacity of a reception side  
13 terminal.

1 20. (As Amended) A picture coding apparatus comprising picture coding  
2 means for coding picture information, and transmission control means for  
3 transmitting or recording coded various information,

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4 wherein the coded various information is delivered to a picture decoding  
5 apparatus comprising reception control means for receiving coded various  
6 information, picture decoding means for decoding the received various  
7 information, and output means for delivering the decoded picture,

8 wherein each picture includes a priority used to determine whether there is  
9 a picture which should be processed, or not be processed, according to a load  
10 processed by the picture decoding apparatus or processing capacity of the picture  
11 decoding apparatus.

1 21. (As Amended) A picture decoding apparatus comprising reception  
2 control means for receiving coded various information transmitted from a picture  
3 coding apparatus including picture coding means for coding picture information,  
4 and transmission control means for transmitting or recording coded various  
5 information,

6 picture decoding means for decoding the received various information, and  
7 output means for delivering the decoded picture,

8 wherein each picture includes a priority used to determine whether there is  
9 a picture which should be processed, or not be processed, according to a load  
10 processed by the picture decoding apparatus or processing capacity of the picture  
11 decoding apparatus.